

E-safety questions

Here are the answers to the e-safety questions posed at the end of the self training version of Jenny's Story on the Know IT All for teachers DVD.

This first set of questions is the same as the one used with pupils in school and is designed to get you thinking about the issues of e-safety with the film as the focus. The second set are about e-safety in a broader sense.

1. How could Jenny be made to do things that she wouldn't normally do?

Discuss the difference between talking to people online and talking to them in real life, i.e. people are generally less inhibited online because of the anonymity, and this is exacerbated by the turmoil of adolescence.

2. Why did Claire pass Jodie on to Jenny?

Claire wanted to get rid of Jodie and didn't know how to do this without being embarrassed or feeling that she was offending her. Young people don't always have the strategies for avoiding difficult situations.

3. Why did Jenny feel pressurised to give out her address?

When Jodie asked for Jenny's address, Jenny had no answer to why she shouldn't give it out. So when Jodie asked "Why not?", Jenny felt pressurised. Also Jodie tricked Jenny into believing that she could get her address anyway.

4. What do you think made Jenny trust Jodie?

Because Jenny thought Jodie was a woman? Because Jodie told Jenny she could be a model?

5. What other subjects might pupils discuss online which could reveal vital information without them realising it?

Responses such as which football team a pupil supports or the colour of their school uniform are likely to be the kind of things that pupils reveal on their personal websites on such places as Facebook, Bebo and YouTube.

6. Why might young people behave differently online from offline?

This question is designed to encourage you to think about the online culture of disinhibition and the question on anonymity. The internet can often seem like a very private and personal medium to young people – a place where they can express their some of their most intimate thoughts. A survey carried out by Pew Internet revealed that 37% of teenagers had used instant messaging to say something that they would not have said in person. The perceived anonymity can mean that young people take risks that they wouldn't take in other situations.

7. How might young people put each other at risk online?

It is important to remember that young people are often the perpetrators of online abuse and not simply the victims. Carelessly distributing their friends' email addresses or mobile numbers can put their friends at risk of inappropriate contact or content. Many instances of cyberbullying were started as pranks by friends, but escalated into very serious or harmful events. Therefore, advice to young people needs to emphasise the importance of looking after each other as well as looking after themselves.

8. Apart from contact with strangers, what are the other areas of risk to young people, posed by the internet?

Contact with strangers is only one of the risks to young people when using the internet or mobile phones. Young people risk viewing or downloading inappropriate or illegal content, or being trapped by online commercialism into giving out financial details or personal details which could be used to target them with advertising. There are also security risks associated with using the internet, which could lead to infecting the computer with viruses, spyware or Trojans.

9. What advice could we give young people to help them keep safe online?

Childnet's general advice to teenagers is contained in the leaflet for trainees, called E-safety – an introduction for trainee teachers. More specific advice for secondary school pupils can be found in Childnet's Keep smart online leaflet at:

www.childnet-int.com/downloads/zcards01.pdf

- Keep personal details – like your full name, mobile phone number, school address, PIN numbers, passwords and photos – private when online.
- Learn how to block people or save conversations that make you feel uncomfortable. You are not anonymous online, and communications can be traced back to you.
- If anything goes wrong online, talk to an adult whom you trust and report incidents to organisations that can help. In the UK, you can report incidents online to the Child Exploitation Online Protection Centre (CEOP) at www.ceop.gov.uk or www.thinkuknow.co.uk
- If you receive a message that upsets or annoys you, keep a record and report it to an adult or your network operator or service provider – don't reply. If you receive a rude or embarrassing image or text about someone, don't pass it on. Distributing sexual pictures of other young people by mobile phone is harassment and could be illegal. For more information on how to save conversations online, see the 'Blah Blah Blah' section of www.websafecrackers.com
- Always ask your friends' permission before taking pictures of them and think before you send a picture or video from your phone. Once you have sent a picture from your phone, you have lost control of it.
- Respect the privacy of your friends: don't give out their numbers without their permission.

10. What would make a young person reluctant to tell an adult about something which made them feel uncomfortable on the internet?

This is an important question for all adults to consider to fully understand the communication gap between young people and adults when it comes to technology. The following are some of the possible reasons why young people may not tell adults about something unpleasant which occurred to them using the internet:

- The child may have done something compromising and therefore feel too embarrassed about his or her behaviour to talk about subsequent problems; e.g. sent out an embarrassing picture of themselves.
- The child may fear that adults would overreact and ban or block the technology.
- A child may feel that the adults around them don't understand enough about technology to know how to help.
- A child may want the internet to be a private domain away from adults' involvement.

11. What can a school do to keep children safe on the internet?

Schools need to consider how to keep children safe when using the internet and mobile phones on the school premises, but this in itself is not enough, since most risk-taking activities take place outside school time. Schools have a duty of care to ensure that children are educated about how to develop safe and discriminating behaviours online, wherever they are using the technologies. Equally, school policies need to address behaviours which occur outside of school gates which may impact on school life, e.g. cyberbullying.

[Read the Childnet cyberbullying guidance](#)

[Read Becta's e-safety: a whole schools approach](#)